

MAR 05 1999

Business Improvement Districts (B.I.D.s) are an important public-private partnership being used throughout Los Angeles as an economic development tool to enhance business districts. B.I.D.s are established by an action of the City Council in order to assist businesses, or the property owners, to initiate improvements and activities that benefit the businesses, their employees, their customers and the community in the immediate area. Their efforts may include newsletters, street banners, maintenance services and private patrol services. Frequently, the B.I.D.s adopt color themes to provide a unique identity for their area.

As with any innovative effort, problems can arise when beginning implementing a program. For example, the Downtown Center Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) has established a private patrol service and provided it with uniforms in the B.I.D.s theme colors. Recently, the Police Commission, which regulates private patrols, has put the Downtown Center B.I.D. and other B.I.D.s on notice for failure to comply with its rules and regulations regarding private patrol services. Specifically, the Commission's rules require that private patrol service uniforms be grey in color. The notification also indicates that the Downtown Center B.I.D. needs to pay the City's permit fees.

State law also regulates private patrols and sets mandatory fees, including those for licenses, firearms, batons and insurance. Section 52.34 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.), which regulates private security patrols and officers, is intended to set forth guidelines for the Police Commission in its oversight of these State-regulated entities. The ordinance requires a City private patrol service permit and levies a "per officer" fee based on the City's cost incurred to exercise such oversight. The ordinance also authorizes the Police Commission to specify the type of uniform, equipment (including vehicles), badges and insignia that are used by any private patrol service or its agents and employees. The Commission's rules allow for waivers of its regulations.

The Downtown Center B.I.D. states that the City's fees and requirements, in combination with those of the State's, are prohibitive given the B.I.D.'s limited financial resources. They also indicate that the regulation of uniform color conflicts with their operational philosophies. The Commission has notified this B.I.D. that it will commence enforcement of the citation effective April 1, 1999.

As more B.I.D.s are established, similar problems may arise between their initiatives and the specific details of the City's public safety rules and regulations. Those rules should be reviewed to see what modifications might be made to assist the B.I.D.s in the achievement of their goals, while still allowing the City to provide the necessary required public safety oversight. An initial effort in assisting B.I.D.s was a previous Council motion (Alatorre-Bernson, C.F. 97-2341) that proposed that B.I.D.s be exempted from police permit fees for supplemental security services provided by the B.I.D. This motion is in the committee process pending a report from the City Administrative Officer.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Police Commission, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to report within 15 days regarding their requirements and enforcement activities under L.A.M.C. Section 52.34 - Private Patrol Service - Regulations, and how the rules can be modified to better coincide with the Mayor and Council's goals and objectives in creating B.I.D.s citywide, while still maintaining guidelines that protect the public's and officer's safety.


I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Police Commission to cease their enforcement against the City's Downtown Center B.I.D. and its private patrol service, and any other B.I.D.s, until this matter has been reviewed by the City Council.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Office report back within 15 days on the previous Council motion (Alatorre-Bernson, C.F. 97-2341) relative to the exemption of B.I.D.s from police permit fees for supplemental security services provided by the B.I.D.s.

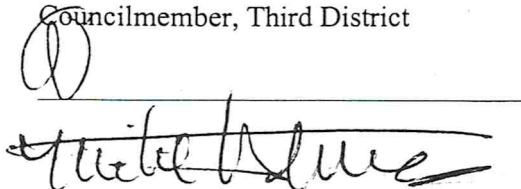
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ADOPTED

MAR 16 1999

PRESENTED BY:


LAURA CHICK
Councilmember, Third District

SECONDED BY:



March 5, 1999 **LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**